



Keystone Ag Digest



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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This publication may be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."			

Note to Survey Respondents: Results of many surveys we conduct throughout the year are included in this report!
Most survey results are not published individually. **Thank you** for taking the time to complete our surveys!

FARM EMPLOYMENT, HOURS WORKED & WAGE RATES, WEEK OF October 6-12, 2008¹

Item	NE II ²	U. S. ³
<i>Thousands</i>		
Farm Employment		
Hired Workers.....	31	700
Expected to be Employed.....		
150 Days or More.....	24	563
149 Days or Less.....	7	137
<i>Hours</i>		
Hours Worked		
Hired.....	35.8	41.0
<i>Dollars per Hour</i>		
Wage Rates for		
All Hired Workers.....	10.00	10.60
Type of Worker		
Field & Livestock Combined.....	9.42	9.87
Field.....	9.71	9.65
Livestock.....	8.77	10.32

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. ² NORTHEAST II includes Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware. ³ Excludes AK.

HIRED WORKERS DOWN 7 PERCENT, WAGE RATES UP 4 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

There were 919,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 6-12, 2008, down 7 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 700,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 219,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.60 per hour during the April 2008 reference week, up 40 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.65 per hour, up 30 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned \$10.32 per hour compared with \$9.59 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.87 per hour, was up 45 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 41.0 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 1 percent from a year ago.

The largest decreases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in California and in the Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi), Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina), Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), and Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas) regions. In California, planted acreage of cotton, dry beans, and sugar beets declined sharply from 2007. Therefore, the demand for field workers was considerably lower. Excessive rain and flooding in the Delta region curtailed most field activities and lessened the need for field workers. In the Southeast region, wet conditions and low soil temperatures delayed corn and cotton planting in Alabama and Georgia, reducing the demand for field workers. Snow and cold temperatures across most of the Mountain I region halted planting activity until late in the week, and calving and lambing were behind normal. These factors led to reduced demand for field and livestock workers. In the Southern Plains region, heavy rains in Oklahoma more than offset the drier conditions in Texas and delayed planting of row crops, resulting in fewer hired workers.

The largest increases in the number of hired workers from last year occurred in the Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), Northeast I (New England and New York), Pacific (Oregon and Washington), and Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota) regions. Strong demand from poultry operations and from the nursery and greenhouse industries in the Appalachian I region caused hired worker numbers to be higher. In the Appalachian II region, strong demand from the equine and cattle industries led to an increase in hired workers. Last year's reference week weather in the Northeast I region was plagued by frigid temperatures and snow. A return to more normal weather patterns this year resulted in a greater need for hired workers. In the Pacific region, increased demand from fruit growers and from the nursery and greenhouse industries kept worker numbers above the previous year. Heavy snow in parts of the Northern Plains region caused livestock stress which led to more supplemental feeding and increased the need for hired workers.

Hired worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico), Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri), Southeast and Appalachian I regions. In the Mountain III and Corn Belt I regions, the higher wages were due to a larger proportion of salaried workers putting in fewer hours, which pushed the average hourly wage higher. The wage increase in the Corn Belt II region was due to a smaller percentage of part time workers. In the Southeast and Appalachian I regions, the higher wages resulted from a higher proportion of nursery and greenhouse workers.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, MAY 2008

Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		May 2007	Apr 2008	May 2008 ¹	May 2007	Apr 2008	May 2008 ¹
<i>Dollars</i>							
Corn.....	Bu.	4.20	5.95	6.09	3.49	5.15	5.12
Wheat, Winter ²	Bu.	-	-	-	4.77	9.61	7.76
Oats	Bu.	2.28	4.34	3.88	2.49	3.48	3.46
Barley ²	Bu.	-	-	-	3.12	4.54	4.76
Soybeans ²	Bu.	-	-	-	7.12	12.00	12.30
Hay, Dry All	Ton	147.00	204.00	197.00	138.00	152.00	166.00
Dry Alfalfa	Ton	161.00	230.00	222.00	145.00	157.00	177.00
Dry Other	Ton	139.00	200.00	192.00	115.00	140.00	134.00
Apples, Fresh Use.....	Lb.	-	-	-	0.269	0.335	0.339
Cows, Slaughter	Cwt.	52.70	51.60	55.80	51.70	50.50	53.10
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	94.50	84.40	87.20	98.10	91.60	95.40
Calves	Cwt.	116.00	114.00	117.00	124.00	116.00	116.00
Barrows & Gilts.....	Cwt.	48.30	38.50	51.00	53.90	45.30	55.50
Sows.....	Cwt.	33.20	18.70	25.00	34.10	17.20	23.00
Sheep	Cwt.	39.00	39.40	-	30.80	28.80	-
Lambs.....	Cwt.	118.00	126.00	-	97.10	99.40	-
Eggs ³	Doz.	0.560	0.830	0.670	0.618	0.884	0.698
Milk, Fluid Grade	Cwt.	19.30	19.90	-	18.00	18.00	18.20
Manufactured Grade ⁴ ...	Cwt.	-	-	-	17.60	17.70	18.50
All	Cwt.	19.30	19.90	19.40	18.00	18.00	18.20
Milk Cows ⁵	Head	-	2,000.00	-	-	1,940.00	-

¹ Preliminary. ² Pennsylvania price not published on monthly basis, average price is published annually. ³ Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. ⁴ PA is no longer published due to insufficient manufacturing grade milk volume. ⁵ Quarterly (Jan., Apr., Jul, Oct.). ⁶ Apples insufficient sales to establish a price.

MAY FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX JUMPED 5 POINTS FROM APRIL

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in May, at 150 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 5 points (3.4 percent) from April. The Crop Index is up 4 points (2.4 percent) and the Livestock Index increased 5 points (3.9 percent). Producers received higher prices for hogs, cattle, onions, and broilers and lower prices for eggs, lettuce, wheat, and broccoli. In addition to prices, the overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of cantaloupes, grapes, sweet corn, and wheat offset decreased marketings of cattle, milk, corn, and apples.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 14 points (10 percent) from May 2007. The Food Commodities Index, at 147, increased 5 points (3.5 percent) from last month and increased 11 points (8.1 percent) from May 2007.

Feed Grains & Hay: The May index is 222, up 0.9 percent from last month and 41 percent above a year ago. The corn price, at \$5.12 per bushel, is down 3 cents from last month but \$1.63 above May 2007. The all hay price, at \$166 per ton, is up \$14.00 from April and \$28.00 from last May. Grain sorghum, at \$9.18 per cwt, is 12 cents below April but \$2.69 above May last year.

LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS: The May index, at 132, is 3.9 percent above last month but unchanged from May 2007. Compared with a year ago, prices are higher for turkeys, broilers, milk, hogs, and eggs. Cattle and calf prices are down from last year.

Dairy Products: The May index, at 139, is up 0.7 percent from a month ago and May last year. The May all milk price of \$18.20 per cwt is up 20 cents from last month and May 2007. The fluid grade milk price is up 20 cents and the manufacturing grade milk price is up 80 cents from the previous month.

U.S. PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS¹

Commodity	Unit	May 2007	Apr 2008	May 2008
<i>Dollars</i>				
Wheat.....	Bu.	10.90	12.90	13.10
Corn.....	Bu.	8.06	8.15	8.25
All Milk, Sold to Plants ²	Cwt.	40.30	47.10	47.80
Wool	Lb.	1.72	1.93	1.96
Barley	Bu.	7.59	8.89	9.01
Oats.....	Bu.	4.51	5.29	5.36
Potatoes	Cwt.	17.20	20.00	20.30
Rye	Bu.	8.69	10.20	10.30
Soybeans	Bu.	17.80	20.10	20.40
Apples, For Fresh Use ³ ...	Lb.	0.631	0.773	0.784
Beef Cattle.....	Cwt.	213.00	247.00	250.00
Calves	Cwt.	306.00	358.00	362.00
Hogs	Cwt.	122.00	135.00	137.00
Lambs.....	Cwt.	250.00	280.00	284.00
Sheep	Cwt.	103.00	113.00	114.00
Eggs	Doz.	1.85	2.15	2.18
Turkeys, Live	Lb.	1.170	1.350	1.370

¹ Parity prices are computed under the provisions of Title III, Subtitle a, Section 301 (a) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 as amended by the Agricultural Acts of 1948, 1949, and 1956. ² Seasonally adjusted price as percentage of parity price. ³ Equivalent packinghouse-door returns for CA, NY (apples only). Price at point of first sale for other states.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS
APRIL 30, 2008

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 1,786,000 bushels on April 30, 2008, compared to 1,845,000 bushels on April 30, 2007. The three largest varieties in storage on April 30, 2008 were: Golden Delicious, 507,000 bushels; York, 429,500 bushels; and Rome, 357,500 bushels.

Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 75,012,000 pounds on April 30, 2008, compared to 77,490,000 pounds on April 30, 2007.



STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, UNITED STATES

Commodity	Apr 30, 2007	Mar 31, 2008	Apr 30, 2008
		<i>(000) Lbs.</i>	
Butter	245,907	224,804	253,642
Cheese, Total Natural	894,338	824,309	852,857
Eggs, Frozen	14,318	16,302	16,196
Poultry, Total Frozen	972,933	1,197,125	1,249,481
Chicken	606,083	764,765	753,427
Turkeys	360,220	428,133	492,738
Fruits, Frozen	882,805	920,547	868,720
Fruit Juices, Frozen	1,295,746	1,410,683	1,586,471
Vegetables, Total Frozen	1,316,778	1,626,420	1,453,260
Potatoes, Total Frozen	1,102,232	1,087,661	1,130,771
Meats, Total Frozen	970,254	1,098,783	1,104,502
Beef, Total Frozen	417,256	423,230	429,289
Pork, Total Frozen	528,527	652,683	652,220

PENNSYLVANIA APPLES IN COLD STORAGE (BUSHELS), APRIL 2008

Variety	April 30, 2007					April 30, 2008				
	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total	Fresh Market ¹		Processing		Total
	Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.		Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.	
	Bushels									
Braeburn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cortland	0	1,000	0	0	1,000	0	0	0	0	0
Empire	0	7,000	0	0	7,000	500	2,000	1,000	0	3,500
Fuji	8,000	16,500	8,500	0	33,000	1500	8,000	0	57,000	66,500
Gala	0	1,000	0	0	1,000	2000	500	0	0	2,500
Golden Delicious	500	125,000	87,000	73,000	285,500	0	103,000	115,000	288,500	507,000
Granny Smith	0	0	7,500	92,000	99,500	4,000	0	500	153,000	157,500
Idared	500	1,000	500	42,000	44,000	1,000	0	1,000	45,000	47,000
Jonagold	500	2,500	7,500	0	10,500	1,500	0	500	0	2,000
Jonathan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
McIntosh	0	5,500	0	0	5,500	1500	0	0	0	2,000
Mutsu/Crispin	500	1,000	3,000	0	4,500	500	0	0	0	500
Northern Spy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pink Lady	1,500	1,000	0	0	2,500	3000	0	0	0	3,000
Red Delicious	500	165,000	30,000	29,000	224,500	8,000	56,000	45,500	52,000	161,500
Rome	500	28,500	90,000	351,000	470,000	0	11,000	14,500	332,000	357,500
Rome Sport	0	3,000	29,000	2,000	34,000	2,500	0	4,500	2,000	9,000
Spartan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stayman	0	1,000	500	0	1,500	1,500	500	2,000	0	4,000
Winesap	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
York	0	0	102,000	495,000	597,000	0	0	101,000	328,500	429,500
All Other Varieties	2,500	3,000	11,000	0	16,500	2,500	3,500	17,500	0	23,500
Not Segregated	0	0	3,500	4,000	7,500	500	2,500	1,500	5,000	9,500
All Varieties	15,000	362,000	380,000	1,088,000	1,845,000	30,500	187,000	305,500	1,263,000	1,786,000

¹ Includes total quantities on hand; graded and ungraded, packed or loose on the last day of the month specified.

APPLE STOCKS IN COLD STORAGE, PENNSYLVANIA & UNITED STATES

Commodity	All Warehouse Stocks		
	April 30, 2007	March 31, 2008	April 30, 2008
Pennsylvania			
Apples:			
Regular Storage	16,590,000	20,160,000	14,112,000
Controlled Atmosphere	60,900,000	76,188,000	60,900,000
TOTAL APPLES	77,490,000	96,348,000	75,012,000
United States			
Apples:			
Regular Storage	86,205,000	236,922,000	140,863,000
Controlled Atmosphere	1,568,388,000	2,171,169,000	1,557,730,000
TOTAL APPLES	1,654,593,000	2,408,091,000	1,698,593,000

MONTHLY POULTRY SUMMARY

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Apr 2007	Mar 2008	Apr 2008	Apr 2007	Mar 2008	Apr 2008
Layers.....	Thous.	22,560	21,766	21,510	345,578	341,906	341,159
Eggs Per 100 Layers.....	Number	2,336	2,435	2,343	2,162	2,244	2,164
Eggs Produced.....	Million	527	530	504	7,472	7,673	7,384
Chick Hatch-Egg Type.....	Thous.	5,042	4,698	5,331	39,254	39,547	41,051
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type.....	Thous.	13,833	15,110	15,173	799,293	832,899	797,481
Poults Placed.....	Thous.	-	-	-	26,034	26,369	25,796

EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in Pennsylvania during April 2008 totaled 504 million eggs, down 4 percent from the 527 million eggs produced in April 2007. The total number of layers averaged 21.5 million during April, a 5 percent drop from last year. Production per 100 layers was 2,343 eggs during the month, an increase of 7 eggs from April 2007.

Egg-type chicks hatched during April 2008 totaled 5.3 million, up 6 percent from the 5.0 million hatched the previous April. Broiler-type chicks hatched totaled 15.2 million during April 2008, up 10 percent from the same month last year.

United States' egg production totaled 7.38 billion during April 2008, down 1 percent from last year's 7.47 billion during April. The total number of layers during April averaged 341 million, down 1 percent from last year. April egg production per 100 layers was 2,164 eggs, an increase of 2 eggs from April 2007.

Egg-type chicks hatched in the United States during April totaled 41.0 million, up 5 percent from April 2007. Broiler-type hatch totaled 797 million, slightly below from last year at this time. There were 26.5 million turkey poults placed in the United States during April 2008, up 1 percent from April 2007.

County estimates for 2007 can now be found online for hay, forage, barley, oats, wheat, corn, soybeans and sorghum.

Check out NASS's homepage at www.usda.gov/nass and click on 'QuickSTATS'

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, APR 2008

Specie	Unit	Pennsylvania	United States
Red Meat Prod	Million pounds	114.4	4,297.0
Cattle	1,000 Head	86.1	2,959.6
	1,000 pounds live	108,769	3,714,432
Calves	1,000 Head	14.0	73.3
	1,000 pounds live	5,761	20,128
Hogs	1,000 Head	250.0	9,994.7
	1,000 pounds live	63,740	2,690,031
Sheep & Lambs	1,000 Head	5.4	221.4
	1,000 pounds live	476	30,609

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in Pennsylvania during April 2008 totaled 114.4 million pounds, up 8 percent from April 2007. Beef production, at 108.8 million pounds live weight, was up 13 percent from April 2007. Total head slaughtered was 86,100, up 11 percent. Live weight averaged 1,273 pounds, up 30 pounds from last year. Veal production was 5.8 million pounds live weight, up 2 percent from last year. Calf slaughter of 14,000 head was down 2 percent from last year. Average live weight increased 15 pounds to 411 pounds. Pork production was 63.7 million pounds live weight, up 4 percent from last year. Total head slaughtered was 250,000, up 4 percent from April 2007. Average live weight increased 2 pounds from last year to 255 pounds. Lamb and mutton production during April 2008 was 476,000 pounds live weight, down 2 percent. The number slaughtered was 5,400, down 2 percent from last year. Average live weight increased 1 pound to 89 pounds.

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